THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) At present, the posts of Managing Director (MD), Air India Ltd., Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Indian Airlines Ltd., Chairman, Airports Authority of India and Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. are being held by officers on officiating basis/ additional charge due to superannuation/completion of tenure/ promotion of the previous incumbents.

(c) and (d) To expedite selection for the posts of CMD, Indian Airlines Ltd. and CMD, Air India Ltd., a request has been made to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions to obtain permission of the Government for selection through a "Search Committee" under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary with Chairman (PESB) and Secretary (CA) as members.

For expeditious selection to the posts of Chairman Airports Authority of India, PESB has been requested to constitute itself into a "Search Committee".

To fill up the posts of CMD, PHHL and Member (Operations), AAI action has already been initiated in consultation with PESB.

Air service from Bhopal to Jeddah

†3650. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the State capitals from where Government have provided facility of direct air services upto Jeddah for the Haj Pilgrims at present;

(b) the names of the other State Capitals from where Government have received representations to provide the said services and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide direct air services from Bhopal to Jeddah; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Presently, facility of direct haj flights upto Jeddah is available from State Capitals at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Srinagar and Lucknow.

(b) The representations received for providing direct haj flights are for other State Capitals of Jaipur, Bhopal and Patna.

(c) and (d) Starting a new embarkation point is a policy decision which can be taken only after due consultation with Ministry of External Affairs and Central Haj Committee.

Upgradation of Amritsar airport

3651. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in the country upgraded to the level of International airport and provided with all basic facilities;

(b) whether any budgetary allocations have been made for the current year for Amritsar airport to provide all required facilities/ amenities for air passengers;

(c) whether Government have so far cleared any proposal for setting up of new airport projects in private sector in the country;

(d) if so, the location-wise details thereof; and

(e) whether any proposals have been received from private sector, for raising the standard of Amritsar airport to the International level?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Six airports, namely, Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh, Guwahati in Assam, Civil Enclave Goa in Goa, Ahmedabad in Gujarat, Civil Enclave Bangalore in Karnataka and Amritsar in Punjab have been upgraded to the level of International Airport.